



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2011 6:30-8:30pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble, Chair
Elizabeth Higgins, Secretary
Casey Schwarz

Rich Schiafo, Climate Analyst (on phone)

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:45pm. There were no guests present.

Minutes: Liz moved to accept the June minutes, with Rich's amendments. Casey seconded, motion was carried, 3-0.

Social Media: Gregg is going to make all advisors "administrators" for the CAC Facebook page and Liz is going to reach out to Felipa to get the code for the work on the CAC website that Felipa and her husband Adam were developing, so that someone from the CAC could move that project forward. Liz suggested that we see if the city can host the website once we develop the whole site as kingstoncac.org. Julie will reach out to Kyle McIntosh, the city IT person, and/or Steve Noble to see: if it is better to purchase the domain name, then just point it to the city site; to see if the city can host Joomla, who can update it; Liz offered to meet with Kyle and Julie to work it out, also offered her web design software and work on the website. Liz also expressed concern with having a site that is different from the city's site, as we are a city advisory body.

Natural Resource Inventory: The scope of what would be discussed at the NRI Committee Meeting on July 12, 6:00pm was reviewed:

- Specific list of digital mapping layers that exist, both at our access and what we still need
- Metadata, scale, date of each
- List of sites we would need to ground-truth
- Determine which maps we need to print (engineering has a plotter)
- Purpose, goals, uses and intentions of this project
- Data gaps, once we have all compiled, including Scenic Hudson's data

Climate Analyst Update: Maxine got almost all vehicle data except DPW, she developed a tri-fold community outreach brochure for the CAP which Rich will send out for review, she has finished her internship and Jennifer Schwartz-Berky is looking for a new intern; they are getting street light and traffic light data, usage data; working on utility data collection, including fuel usage; Rich met with Joe Puetz (sp?), the facility manager at Benedictine Hospital re: their solar array; a tour has been set up of Solar Tech, Darmstadt Overhead Doors, the Kirkland Hotel, and Benedictine, as a renewables tour for River Summer and interested CAC members; July 20th, the Community Catalyst Fund Grant monies are on the agenda for the Finance Committee for acceptance of the grant award; both Emilie and Gregg have sent Rich draft language for the CAP and Rich is working on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory section; there has been no follow up yet

from Kristen Marcel about the Adaptations portion; Rich will be updating his timeline; Rich attended a public meeting that was part of Albany's CAP process, reported on it, their Adaptations section will be an appendix to their Comprehensive Plan; Rich mentioned that DOS will be allowing cities to apply for money for Adaptation Plans

CAC Member Recruitment: ideas were discussed re: ways to grow the CAC and what special interests/skills would be valuable to the council; suggestions: green developer, planning board liaison, school district educator, renewables/solar professional, environmental professionals, people with interest in doing environmental programming and interested in a high quality of life, balanced with environmental stewardship

Restructuring, Evaluating CAC function: The function of the CAC, moving forward, was discussed; the strengths/interests of each advisor were reviewed and a strategy for moving forward. Ideas:

- Minimize the amount of time spent reporting back from the CAP, if Rich/the CSGJ Taskforce could create a one-page brief to keep the CAC updated
- Combine meetings with activities, at least every third meeting, to entice engagement
- Do a public event quarterly, ie:
 - Tree plantings
 - Renewable energy tours
 - Clean ups
 - Green Kingston Tour
 - Bike Friendly Businesses Map
 - Highlighting Green Businesses that do simple green things, ie sell LED lights, compost, etc
 - Host a table at the Farmer's Market
 - Have a liaison on the Comprehensive Planning Committee
 - Conduct an Environmental Values survey of Kingston residents, to ask what they like, what they're doing to be green, what they'd like to protect
 - Develop an environmental mission statement/vision for Kingston
 - Reevaluate the meeting time and location (Tues, Thurs better, same time), less intimidating location?
- Create a "Green Newsletter" ie one we reviewed from Shoprite, to be distributed perhaps in water bill, to include things like:
 - Recycling info
 - Highlighting green businesses
 - Info on local environmental initiatives, like the dog park, smoking ban in parks, gardens, where to get mulch, Citibus riding information

Adjournment: Liz moved, Julie Seconded to adjourn. Meeting ended 8:35pm.